(c) what is the quantum of electricity which the Central Government propose to supply to the rural areas of Bihar for irrigation purposes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The energy requirement in Bihar during March, 1987 was 454 Million Units against which the availability was 340 Million Units.

(b) The total energy generated in Bihar during 1985-86 and 1986-87 was 3324 Million Units and 3680 Million Units respectively.

(c) The suppy of electricity to various sectors is the responsibility of the State authorities and the supply is regulated depending upon availability of power. It is, therfore not possible to indicate the exact quantum of power which will be supplied to rural areas in Bihar for irrigation. States have been advised to give priority for supply of power to agricultural sector.

Saal hydro-electric project

894. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the targeted dates for commissioning and competition of Salal hydro-electric project:

(b) the reasons for the deay, if any, in commissioning of this important project; and

(c) what are the new targeted dates for commissioning and completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) The units of the Salal hydro-electric project (3 x 115 MW) which were earlier expected to be commissioned in March 1987 are now sheduled to be commissioned by June-July, 1987. The commissioning programme has been affected, *inter alia*, by the presence of major shear zones surcharged with water in the tailrace tunnel and the availability of Chenab waters for initial filling of the Salal reservoir.

Indo-USSR cooperation in the power sector

895. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the USSR have recently signed a protocol for co-operation in the power sector;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the said protocol;

(c) the areas which are likely to be served by it; and

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Protocol mainly covers the implementation of the Vindhyachal and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Stations, the Vindhyachal-Jabalpur- Itarsi 400 KV Transmission Line and the Tehri Hydro Complex with Soviet assistance. The Soviet credit in foreign exchange is of the order of 1300-1355 million Roubles (provisional). The possibilities of further cooperation between the two countries in the Power Sector are also referred to in the Protocol.